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PROGRAM The Today Show STATION WRC-TV
NBC Network

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SUBJECT Jimmy Carter's Briefing Book

JOHN PALMER: Democrats who worked on former President Carter's unsuccessful re-election campaign are calling for a special prosecutor to investigate officials of President Reagan's campaign who now work for the White House.

We have more on that story from White House correspondent Andrea Mitchell.

ANDREA MITCHELL: Stolen briefing book? Debategate? No answer from the President.

But a White House messenger delivered answers to congressional investigators, letters from four top Reagan officials denying any wrongdoing, and remembering very little.

CIA Director Casey, who managed the Reagan campaign -- no recollection of a set of papers which laid out the Carter debate plan.

Chief-of-staff Baker, who remembers getting something from Casey -- a large loose-leaf bound book with Carter campaign materials.

David Gergen had seen some pages of Carter materials for a brief period, but the passage of time leaves him a little hazy on details.

Budget Director Stockman recalls an issues primer, which he found useful in preparing Ronald Reagan for the debate. No secret strategy papers, no game plans.

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MAN: Well, I don't know. It's like saying the fellow the stole the horse and it turned out lame. That's doesn't mean he didn't steal the horse.

MAN: Someone -- someone stole information from the White House. In my opinion, that's quite serious.

JIMMY CARTER: If the allegations are true, and I don't know if they are or not, then there have been violations of the law and perhaps some legal action would be appropriate, but I'll let the authorities take care of that instead of me.

MITCHELL: Former Carter aides say there was no issues book such as Budget Director Stockman says, only a highly sensitive book with debate strategies.

Andrea Mitchell, NBC News, at the White House.